Subject: Arrangement of Greek, Roman + American coins--only those in best condition?

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GRINNELL COLLEGE, GRINNELL, IOWA

Nov. 23. 1934.

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK
Edward B. T. Spencer

To
The Curator of Coins,
The Metropolitan Museum,
New York City.

My dear sir,

Will you please let me ask you a question.

Is it likely that any museum would preserve a coin that is less than thoroughly clear and legible, unless of course there should be some special reason such as the great age or extreme rarity of the specimen.

I am asking this in connection with my arrangement of our American and Greek and Roman coins.

November 30, 1934.

Mr. Edward B. Spencer
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Your letter to the Metropolitan Museum of Art has been referred to us for reply. We presume they sent the letter up to us as they do not make a practice of collecting coins. As our Museum is confined wholly to numismatics, chiefly for study purposes, we keep everything that we do not have, regardless of condition. Nevertheless we are always trying to improve. We, however would seldom buy a coin in poor condition unless there was some good reason for doing so. As you somewhat qualify your question by having in mind the showing of coins we would say this, that we seldom put on exhibition a coin in poor condition, unless for some good reason. As regards your American coins, I certainly would only show those in from good to perfect condition, leaving out badly worn and discolored pieces. As for your Greek and Roman coins, you can let the bars down a trifle. Patination where it does not disfigure the coin too much would be perfectly all right for display purposes.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator